## **Important Milestones in the History of The Woodlands**

**1988** The John Cooper School opened.

1964	George Mitchell purchased 50,000 acres from Grogan-Cochran Lumber Company, 2,800 of which became part of The Woodlands, marking the original transaction.
<b>'64-'74</b>	More than 300 additional transactions completed in order to assemble the original 17,455 acres.
1971	First public school, Lamar Elementary, opened.
1974	Grand Opening of The Woodlands.
	Village of Grogan's Mill opened.
1975	Interfaith established.
1976	McCullough High School opened.
1977	Village of Panther Creek opened.
	Construction of the first church in The Woodlands began.
1978	Jamail's, the first supermarket in The Woodlands, opened.
1982	Houston Advanced Research Center announced plans for research campus and is initial building.
	Research Forest established.
1983	Village of Cochran's Crossing opened.
1984	Village of Indian Springs opened.
1985	The Woodlands Hospital (now Memorial-Hermann) opened.
	Lake Woodlands filled with water.
1986	Harmony Bridge opened to provide an alternate route into Harris County.
	South County YMCA opened its new building.
1987	The Hardy Toll Road opened.

**1990** The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion opened.

The Woodlands population reached 30,000.

The Woodlands Watch wins number one in the nation for its National Night Out program.

1991 The Woodlands Community Association wins Association of the Year from the Community Associations Institute.

**1992** The Woodlands Community Association transitioned to resident control.

1993 Construction of The Woodlands Mall began.

**1994** The Village of Alden Bridge opened.

The Woodlands Association formed.

The Woodlands Commercial Owners Association formed.

Town Center Improvement District formed.

The Woodlands Mall opened.

Highway 242 opened.

The population of The Woodlands exceeded 40,000.

1995 Montgomery College (now Lone Star College - Montgomery) opened.

Jobs in The Woodlands topped 15,000.

**1996** The Woodlands High School opened.

Population exceeded 45,000.

The Woodlands Parkway overpass across Grogan's Mill opened.

Information Center opened.

Tinseltown Cinema opened.

**1997** Population exceeded 50,000.

**1998** One million square feet of commercial construction underway.

Celebrated The Woodlands 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**1999** The Village of Sterling Ridge opened.

Plans for The Woodlands Waterway unveiled.

Houston and The Woodlands MUDs sign a Moratorium Agreement, which prevents the City of Houston from annexing The Woodlands and prevents The Woodlands from incorporating as a city for at least 12 years.

**2000** The Village of College Park opened.

Community Associations of The Woodlands begin to draft a plan to educate community leaders and residents about existing governance as well as options for future community governance.

**2002** The Woodlands Waterway Marriott and Convention Center opened.

'02-'06 Joint Ad-Hoc Governance Process Committee and later The Woodlands Governance Steering Committee study and evaluate governance options with resident feedback.

2004 Market Street opened.

**2005** The Woodlands College Park High School opened.

Population of The Woodlands exceeded 80,000.

**2006 December 7**: City of Houston and The Woodlands announce historic agreement allowing The Woodlands to determine their future as they contribute toward important regional projects.

**2007** The Village of Creekside Park opened.

Legislation provides the authority to enter into the Regional Participation Agreements (SB 1012) with the City of Houston and the City of Conroe and to establish, with voter approval, a new governance body for The Woodlands (HB 4109).

Community Associations initiate The Woodlands Decides Committee to provide educational information to residents on the upcoming election.

**November 2007 Election:** Three propositions pass, authorizing the expansion of the former Town Center Improvement District (TCID) to cover The Woodlands (86 percent in favor), the

reorganization of TCID's Board of Directors to a seven-member resident-elected board (86 percent in favor), and to allow the entity to assess an ad valorem property tax (78 percent in favor). TCID changes its name to The Woodlands Township.

2008 Community Associations and The Woodlands Township unanimously approve the Transition Agreement that outlines the transition of service delivery from the Associations to the Township.

**May 10, 2008 Election**: Voters elected the first five at-large representatives to The Woodlands Township. Six members of the existing Township board will continue in office until May 2010.

**'08-'09** Associations and Township continue to carry out customary roles and responsibilities.

**2009** Township considers budget and capital plan and creates Vision 2034 for consolidated Township operations.

Township Board adopts budget and sets property tax levy at 32.8 cents per \$100 assessed value. This replaces the Community Associations assessments.

**2010 January 1:** Township assumes full responsibility for Association services.

**May 2010 Election:** Township board transitioned to fully resident-elected board with seven members.

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**2011** The Woodlands acquired by Howard Hughes Corporation.

Dedicated Fire Station No. 8.

## August 22, 2012

As a result of the governance study, The Woodlands Township Board of Directors adopts resolution indefinitely deferring an incorporation election and directing staff to develop a plan to report annually on significant changes in community needs or potential financial consequences of incorporation so that the Board of Directors may consider any further actions. Later that year, the Board adopts the Governance Strategy and Assessment Report, which provides a multi-level approach for evaluating and escalating a change in governance structure.

## **January 2011 – August 2012**

Township initiates a Governance Planning Project to examine the current structure performance and costs / benefits of incorporation

Governance study determines residents generally satisfied with the current Township governance model and costs would increase substantially under incorporation

**2012** Population exceeds 100,000 residents.

Dedicated Fire Station #7 in Harris county, within the new village of Creekside Park.

2013 Hughes Landing begins development.

Dedicated the new Central Fire Station and received the Gold Award for Best Career Station Design for North America.

**2014** Comprehensive Community Services Agreement with The Woodlands Development Company approved for build out of The Woodlands.

The Woodlands Township Fire Department received the best ISO rating in the nation, ISO 1.

On May 29, The Woodlands became eligible to incorporate as a municipality based on Regional Participation Agreements with the Cities of Houston and Conroe and legislation passed in 2007. An incorporation election was not called; however, incorporation or a change in governance structure remains an option through November 16, 2057.

On October 19, 2014, The Woodlands celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and establishes the recognition of Founder's Day.